

all rights which are the normal constitutional rights of the citizens under the Constitution, but will be dealt with as wards of the United States for whom this country has special responsibilities," according to a memorandum from the Atomic Energy Commission attached to President Truman's Directive of Nov. 25, 1947, to the Secretary of Defense.

The 142 Enewetakese (and their descendants) on Ujelang suffered greatly because of logistical problems, inclement weather, bureaucratic negligence and the island's desolation. Even the Department of Interior, in a letter dated Jan. 13, 1978, acknowledged that during their 33-year exile on Ujelang the Enewetakese "have suffered grave deprivations, including periods of near starvation."

An anthropologist who lived among them on Ujelang and spoke Marshallese, Laurence M. Carucci, wrote that the stories of this period told to him over and over by elders focused on famine and hunger, near starvation and death from illness, poor fishing conditions, epidemics of polio and measles and rat infestation.

One Enewetak woman in her 40s told Carucci in 1978 about these difficult days. She described the stomachs of children as being "stuck out like they were bloated and you would never think they were hungry," but in fact they were. Then, she continued: "They would get hot fevers, then cold chills; hot fevers, then cold and sweaty. And then, in just a moment, they would be gone. Dead, they would never move again. Their life was gone. And, in those days, the wailing across the village was constant."

Their hardship was so severe that in 1969 they commandeered a supply ship and demanded they be returned home. Their ancestral atoll was too contaminated with radioactivity for their return, but the U.S. government did begin an extensive cleanup and rehabilitation so that on Oct. 1, 1980, some islanders returned home.

Upon their return, they found a far different atoll, a far different Enewetak. The Mike shot and 42 other detonations had devastated Enewetak so severely that more than half of the land and pockets of the lagoon today remain contaminated by radiation. The islanders who do reside there cannot live off of much of their land and must rely on imported food.

MOONSCAPING ENEWETAK

The Mike shot was the eighth of 43 nuclear weapons tests at Enewetak that transformed a placid atoll into a moonscape. The Enewetak people, now numbering 1,500, are still pleading with the U.S. government for \$386 million in land and hardship damages and other compensation awarded to them by an official tribunal established by the U.S. and Marshallese governments. This panel ruled in April 2000 that after serving as Ground Zero for 43 weapons tests and receiving fallout from other shots, the Enewetak atoll: Was uninhabitable on 49 percent of its original land mass, or 949.8 acres of 1,919.49 acres; was habitable on only 43 percent of its land area, or 815.33 acres; was vaporized by 8 percent, or 154.36 acres.

The lingering effects of U.S. Pacific nuclear tests are visible today in the numerous kinds of cancers and other diseases and the degraded homelands that are determined by an official panel established by the U.S. and Marshallese governments to result from the U.S. experiments of decades ago. Compensation for these damages is paid for from a \$150 million trust fund that is now too depleted to pay fully current personal and property claims. Since 1946, researchers write in Atomic Audit, the U.S. government has paid at least \$759 million in nuclear-related compensation to the Marshallese. But medical,

cleanup and resettlement costs continue to mount, and Marshallese want more U.S. funding.

The Marshallese prospects for immediate help from U.S. officials in Washington seem dim, congressional sources in Washington, D.C., told the Weekly. Enewetak's \$386 million in land claims is not included in the budget Congress is considering for the fiscal year that began this Oct. 1. Nor are funds for a medical program that in 2001 ceased to address Marshallese health needs that have been urgent enough to warrant sending a six-person delegation to Washington last month to plead with congressional leaders and staff.

Provisions of the Compact of Free Association set to expire next year are being negotiated with the Bush administration, but any agreement must then be acted on by Congress, which is soon to adjourn. Arguing that U.S. assistance provided in past agreements is "manifestly inadequate," Marshallese officials in September 2000 petitioned Congress for increased U.S. medical and other assistance to meet the mounting costs of damages to persons and property presumed to be caused by U.S. nuclear testing. That petition is still being studied by the Bush administration, and no congressional measure on it is pending.

FROM CRATER TO CRYPT

Much of the plutonium-contaminated soil removed in the operation to clean up Enewetak was dumped into one of the atoll's smaller craters on Runit island. This crater was created May 5, 1958, during the 18-kiloton test shot code-named Cactus. The crater, 30 feet deep and 350 feet wide, was filled with about 111,000 cubic yards of radioactive soil and other materials and then entombed beneath a dome of 358 concrete panels, each 18 inches thick. Researchers in "Atomic Audit" report that the unprecedented job, completed in 1980, took three years and about \$239 million.

Soon afterward, a delegation from the National Academy of Sciences inspected the dome and, John Harrison recalls, issued a report noting the inadequacies of the dome, specifically that the predicted longevity of the containment structure was at best 300 years. Yet, the plutonium-laced debris encased in the dome will remain radioactive for 500,000 years and hazardous to humans for at least half that time.

The Runit island entombment is of special interest because a nuclear-waste crypt is now being finished 800 miles from Honolulu to bury plutonium-laced materials under a cap of coral soil at Johnston Island, where four failed nuclear-tipped missile shots in 1962 showered the atoll and waters with radioactive debris.

From test site to dump site, the Runit island crypt eerily symbolizes the legacy of the thermonuclear age that has caused the Marshallese to suffer disproportionately in adverse health, environmental and cultural conditions.

The 50th anniversary of the Mike shot and its aftermath begs for reflection from a nation so riveted on a purported nuclear threat in the Middle East and North Korea that it ignores the era of mass destruction introduced by the United States on Enewetak with the world's first thermonuclear explosion.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR HAITI ACT OF 2003

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 3386, The New Partnership for Haiti Act of 2003, which will help Haitians overcome the many social, economic, and physical challenges currently facing the country.

Today in Haiti only 45% of Haitians have access to safe water and 28% have access to sanitation. Seventy-six percent of Haiti's children under the age of five are underweight, or suffer from stunted growth and 63% of Haitians are undernourished. Eighty percent of the population lives in abject poverty and the unemployment rate is estimated to be around 60%.

My longstanding interest in ending the AIDS pandemic has brought focus on Haiti, with 90% of all HIV/AIDS cases in the Caribbean. As we combat global HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis, maternal and child mortality, and many other life threatening diseases, we must address the long-term effect of dilapidated physical and health infrastructure and abject poverty throughout the world, including in Haiti.

My bill, the New Partnership for Haiti Act of 2003 offers a comprehensive plan for future engagement between the U.S. and Haitian Government. This legislation partners Haitians and Americans together to execute an environmentally sound approach to rebuilding Haiti. Its major provisions are aimed at developing basic sanitation, water, and other health infrastructures in Haiti.

The New Partnership for Haiti Act would bring the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to train and educate Haitians on how to rebuild, pave, and maintain roads to provide access to rural and urban areas and to health clinics. It will commission environmental impact studies for these projects, focusing on long term, environmentally sound solutions—not short term remedies.

Haiti needs assistance in addressing its long-term health infrastructure development. The most basic of these needed development challenges is water. How can Haiti begin to combat its enormous health problems without basic clean and safe water?

Haiti's water quality is life-threatening. In a study released in May of 2003, Haiti ranked last in the world for water quality. The New Partnership for Haiti Act will provide funds and expertise through USAID to partner with Haiti on rebuilding of sanitation, water purification projects, and education for Haitians on how to maintain these systems themselves in the future. This bill will help Haitians build and maintain safer, quality sewage systems and safe water delivery for both urban and rural communities.

The New Partnership for Haiti Act will start a pilot program for American Health Professionals and also Engineers who are interested in going to Haiti and helping with the development process.

It is my hope that a transfer of knowledge from U.S. professionals in the fields of health and engineering to Haitians will ensure long term development and guarantee the success

of the programs similar to the success of the Global Fund and other international initiatives. By widening the knowledge base of non-governmental organizations and professionals in Haiti, the U.S. will take advantage of a unique opportunity and obligation towards Haiti's future.

We worked together to get the humanitarian loans, which had been held up by the Inter-American Development Bank officially released on May 9, 2003. It is my hope that we can continue to push for the full release of these loans and the potential for future humanitarian grants through the IDB. I also believe we must move forward on establishing a health infrastructure for efficient delivery of these health and social sector funds.

Today I submit this legislation, and thank all of my original cosponsors: Reps. DONNA CHRISTENSEN, ELIJAH CUMMINGS, BENNIE THOMPSON, AL WYNN, DONALD PAYNE, SHEILA JACKSON-LEE, JUANITA MILLENDER-MCDONALD, ROBERT WEXLER, JOHN CONYERS, CORRINE BROWN, and MAJOR OWENS.

I look forward to the support of my colleagues and the Administration.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to share with you the attached letter, which I recently received from the Vermont Association of Hospitals and Health Systems in support of my and my colleagues' legislative efforts to enable Americans to access prescription drugs from Canada. I would like this letter included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

VERMONT ASSOCIATION OF
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH SYSTEMS,
Montpelier, VT, September 29, 2003
The Honorable BERNARD SANDERS,
House of Representatives,
Rayburn Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN SANDERS: On behalf of the hospitals in Vermont, I am writing to extend our support for your efforts to allow for the re-importation of prescription drugs from Canada. As you well know, access to safe, affordable medication is an issue for many Americans. In our rural state, patients of all ages travel to Canada to purchase FDA-approved, less expensive medications. That option should be available to all patients seeking more affordable prescription drug coverage.

Our hospitals are committed to ensuring that our patients have access to affordable, quality healthcare. We applaud your efforts and the efforts of your colleagues on this very important issue.

Sincerely,

THOMAS HUEBNER,
Board Chair.
M. BETRICE GRAUSE,
President & CEO.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, JR.

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Mr. NETHERCUTT. Mr. Speaker, on October 28, 2003, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall vote nos. 569–573.

Had I been present I would have voted as follows: On rollcall 569, "yea;" on rollcall 570, "yea;" on rollcall 571, "yea;" on rollcall 572, "nay;" and on rollcall 573, "nay."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 29, 2003

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, October 21, 2003, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior obligation.

I request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted as follows: rollcall no. 566: "no" (on H. Res. 407); rollcall no. 567: "yes" (on the Obey motion to instruct conferees); and rollcall no. 568: "yes" (on H.J. Res. 73).

EXTENDING AUTHORITY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MEMORIAL TO MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

SPEECH OF

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank my colleagues for their support of the "Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site Land Exchange Act," H.R. 1616 and the bill to extend the authority for the construction of a memorial to Martin Luther King, Jr., S. 470. These bills extend the authority for and make possible the construction of a national memorial commemorating the achievements of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his commitment to the struggle of civil rights for all Americans.

Dr. King dedicated his life to the realization of full equal and civil rights for all Americans irrespective of race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. He stood on the front lines in the struggle against social injustice, discrimination, and inequality, often at great risk to himself. Despite numerous death threats, Dr. King never wavered in that commitment.

Madam Speaker, the Lewis and Sarbanes bills are a win-win situation for all parties involved. The National Park Service currently owns a vacant lot that does not have any significant historic value. The City of Atlanta would like to acquire this land for the sole purpose of encouraging commercial development within its city limits. In addition, the land on which the National Historic Site Visitor Center and Museum currently sits is land-locked and lacks adequate emergency access. Exchanging this land within the Martin Luther King, Junior, National Historic Site for property in

which the National Park Service could establish easy access to the Visitor Center and Museum would be mutually beneficial to both parties. This would simultaneously resolve the National Park Service's access issue and give the City of Atlanta much needed commercial space.

Madam Speaker, once again I am proud to support both bills the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site Land Exchange Act and the bill to extend the authority for construction of the MLK Memorial. I would like to give a special thanks to my colleagues Mr. LEWIS and Senator SARBANES for their leadership in sponsoring these important pieces of legislation and in helping to keep the dream alive.

HONORING BILL AND SUE GROSS

HON. CHRISTOPHER COX

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the Orange County Department of Education to thank two outstanding individuals, Bill and Sue Gross, whose unparalleled commitment to teachers in California is an inspiration in the field of education.

Each year more than fifty public, private, and community college teachers from Orange County, California, are recognized for their outstanding contributions and dedicated efforts in the field of education. The Orange County Department of Education, led by Superintendent William M. Habermehl, coordinates the annual selection and recognition of these teachers.

During the last dozen years, the Teachers of the Year program has had the additional support and generosity of two local residents, Bill and Sue Gross. In 1991, the Grosses established the Dr. James Hines Foundation in memory of a teacher who had positively influenced Sue Gross' life. In the ensuing 12 years, through the Foundation, the Grosses have given over \$1 million in cash awards to these exemplary teachers. This year, as an added surprise, Bill and Sue Gross invited all one hundred 2003 and 2004 Teachers of the Year nominees to be their guests on a 10-day cruise to Alaska.

Orange County residents Bill and Sue Gross are champions of teaching excellence, deserving of special commendation and recognition by the Congress of the United States of America. Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Bill and Sue Gross for their years of commitment to California's educators.

92ND NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATION OF TAIWAN

HON. SHELLEY BERKLEY

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 30, 2003

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 92nd National Day celebration of Taiwan. The Republic of China on Taiwan is a flourishing democracy of 23 million citizens who, like us, cherish their constitutional guarantees of freedom and human rights.

Over the years, Taiwan has transformed itself from a one-party dictatorship to a vibrant